

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL AND BRAIN SCIENCES MAJORS

Many of our majors in psychology and cognitive neuroscience find that participating in a research project or in a community service internship or other fieldwork experience guides and enhances their career choices after graduation and improves their success if they apply to graduate school.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES IN PSYCHOLOGICAL AND BRAIN SCIENCES

You can enroll in **Psyc 3591 (Supervised Research)** or **4591 (Independent Research)** to work with Psychology faculty on a wide range of research projects.

You must find a professor willing to work with you and enter into an agreement to be submitted at the start of the semester to the Department office. There is normally a list available through the department office at the start of the year of faculty potentially looking for undergraduates to assist in their research. Or talk to a professor whose research interests you. Or look at the Department website for information about faculty research interests:

<https://psychology.columbian.gwu.edu/faculty>

GW has several ways it makes research opportunities here and elsewhere known:

Academic Commons

Try this page, which lists some research openings at GW and some fellowship opportunities:

<https://researchcommons.gwu.edu/hub>

This page includes a section called “Transcript Notation” that allows undergraduate students involved volunteer, work-study, or other student research experiences not done through a for-credit independent research course to receive a notation on their transcript to recognize their research activity. Read more about this here: <https://research.gwu.edu/transcript-notation>

GW Center for Undergraduate Fellowships and Research (a useful resource on both internal and external competitive and sometimes very prestigious fellowships like the Rhodes Scholarship):

<https://undergraduate.research.gwu.edu/gw-sponsored-fellowship-programs>

GW-Funded Research Fellowships

GW also provides funding to support intensive undergraduate research experiences under the mentorship of university faculty:

The following undergraduate research fellowships, many for summer support, are administered through the Center for Undergraduate Fellowships and Research:

- [GW Undergraduate Research Award](#) (\$5,000 for student, \$1,000 for mentor; deadlines December 3 or March 1)

- [Luther Rice Undergraduate Research Fellowship](#) (CCAS program; \$3,000-\$5,000 plus \$1,000 for mentor, December 3 and March 1)
- [Sigelman Undergraduate Research Enhancement \(SURE\) Award](#) (up to \$500, October 6 and January 20 deadline)
- [The Cisneros Undergraduate Research Fellowship](#) (Latino issues; \$5,000 for student, \$1,000 for mentor; deadlines not yet updated so not sure if available)
- And see the Center for Undergraduate Fellowships and Research for more.

The following are funded by the **Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences**:

- **Undergraduate Research and Service Grants (URSG--**up to \$500 to support research expenses or travel or other expenses associated with a research or service experience; awarded for fall, spring, or summer)
- **Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship (USRF--**a larger award to support research expenses associated with an intensive summer research experience with a PBS faculty mentor)

See <https://psychology.columbian.gwu.edu/research-funding#undergraduate-funding>

Psi Chi List of External Grants and Awards for Undergraduates

The national chapter of Psi Chi, the honorary society for psychology, <https://www.psichi.org/>, offers a variety of awards and grants to undergraduate members of Psi Chi. Contact gwupsichi@gmail.com to get in touch with the GW Psi Chi chapter.

We encourage you to apply for multiple grants and awards throughout your college career because you will learn from the process. Each time you complete an application, you will gain experience and insight. Application portals open approximately 30 days before the deadline.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES IN PSYCHOLOGICAL AND BRAIN SCIENCES

Students interested in gaining practical experience applying their psychology training in real world settings can explore these options through community placements. You can find a wealth of internship and job opportunities and career preparation and advising services through GW Career Services. Look into GW's Honey Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service too, and consider taking the Field Internship course offered in Psychological and Brain Sciences.

GW Career Services

<https://careerservices.gwu.edu/>

- **GW Career Service's Handshake system for internship & job listings.** Definitely sign up for Handshake, the Career Center-based database that lists both jobs and internships, including both research and service positions. You can set up alerts and filters and also see where alumni have been placed:

<https://gwu.joinhandshake.com/login>

- Career Services also provides competitive funds to support unpaid off-campus internships and travel to internship sites (e.g., the KACIF awards):

<https://careerservices.gwu.edu/funding-opportunities>

The Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service offers ideas about community service and field work:

<https://serve.gwu.edu>

- **The Knapp Fellowship**, offered through the Nashman Center, provides \$10,000 to one project or funds split between multiple projects for a group project that aims to change the world (or some part of it). Applications will open in October and be due in January--dates forthcoming. See <https://serve.gwu.edu/knapp-fellowship-entrepreneurial-service-learning>.

Psyc 3592. Field Internship

Students can enroll in **Psyc 3592, Field Internship**, to earn Psychology major credit for their internship work. All types of internships that integrate psychological theory, practice, or research are eligible. Students have worked in internships focused on education, mental health, human services and social justice, forensics, medicine, and policy, among others. Contact Dr. Sharon Lambert, slambert@gwu.edu, to discuss internship options or to learn whether an internship you already have obtained meets class criteria.

As noted above, sign up for Handshake, the Career Services-based database that lists jobs and internships. You can set up alerts and filters and also see where alumni have been placed:

<https://careerservices.gwu.edu/search-jobs-internships>

Internships are sometimes listed on the Department's blog:

<https://blogs.gwu.edu/ccaspsychology/category/jobs-and-internships/>

or <https://blogs.gwu.edu/ccaspsychology/service-opportunities/>

They also appear now and then in emails distributed to the Psychmajors listserv. (Be sure to get on it when you declare your major.)

Examples of Mental Health-Related Opportunities

Here are just a few of the places where undergraduates interested in mental health services or clinical psychology can get exposure to individuals with mental health concerns or to practitioners who work with mental health issues:

1. NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness): undergraduates can work on the call line for individuals with mental illness or family members of individuals with mental illness.
 - a. <https://www.nami.org/>
 - b. <https://nami.applicantpro.com/jobs/1655112.html>

2. Hospitals may have volunteer opportunities but few have patient care/patient interaction. Children's National Hospital in DC has some opportunities for special category volunteers who interact with patients at the hospital to carry out medical procedures. This type of option is best for someone interested in working in a hospital setting.
 - a. <https://childrensnational.org/giving/get-involved/volunteer>
 - b. Example: Concussion SCORE clinic at Children's Hospital - several days a week, good training and research experience: <https://childrensnational.org/departments/center-for-neuroscience-and-behavioral-medicine/programs-and-services/safe-concussion-outcome-recovery-education-score-program>
3. Sexual assault hotlines (e.g., Rape Abuse Incest National Network [RAINN]) allow interactions with individuals who have experienced or are at risk of assault.
 - a. <https://www.rainn.org/>
4. Clinical field research (e.g., interviewing, administering a test battery) at a university and/or a federal agency like NIH; however, some of these opportunities are easier to get for someone with a bachelor's degree who is getting additional experience before applying to grad school.
 - a. <https://clinicalcenter.nih.gov/volunteers/opportunities.html>
5. Volunteer positions with Crisis Link (crisis intervention and suicide prevention):
 - a. <https://prsinc.org/>
 - b. <https://prsincvolunteers.applicantpro.com/pages/volunteers/>

These are just a few suggestions; many of our students are creative and find their own opportunities!

Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences
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